

# STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE  
PHONE (317) 232-3777  
FAX (317) 232-8779



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH  
100 NORTH SENATE AVENUE N1058(B)  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

August 24, 2007

## VIA U.S. MAIL

RE: County Assessor and Auditor Data Compliance

Dear Debbie Folkerts, Hamilton County Assessor and Robin Mills, Hamilton County Auditor,

The Department of Local Government Finance ("Department") sent a letter on July 20, 2007, to several counties requesting that each county comply with Indiana law and provide the Department with all pay 2007 datasets, which include the 2006 Sales dataset, 2007 Assessor dataset, and 2007 Auditor dataset. Hamilton County did not receive the July 20 letter because it had already submitted compliant data for all pay 2007 datasets. I would like to thank all Hamilton County officials, and especially you, for your timely and compliant data submissions. You should be commended for all of your hard work.

The purpose of this letter is not only to thank you for all of your hard work, but also to emphasize the importance of submitting compliant historical datasets, which may date back to as early as the 2002 payable 2003 year. Compliance by all counties with the Department's data requests has never been more important. Governor Daniels and the Indiana General Assembly are conducting an in-depth analysis of the property tax system in our state. To continue this analysis, and as an important policy-making tool, obtaining full and accurate datasets from each county is crucial for the success of these efforts. The Department's July 20, 2007, letter requested the submission of the most recent datasets. The Department now requests that all counties comply with Indiana law and provide full and accurate datasets beginning with the 2002 payable 2003 year. For the on-going analysis to continue, Hamilton County must submit the following datasets, which according to Department records are still noncompliant, by **October 15, 2007**:

<u>DATA SET</u>	<u>OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL DUE DATE</u>
Pay 2005 Auditor Data	County Auditor	March 1, 2005
Pay 2006 Auditor Data	County Auditor	March 1, 2006
2006 Real Property Data	County Assessor	October 1, 2005

Because this data plays such a key role in policymaking, the Department will neither review nor approve any unit's 2008 budget or pending 2008 debt issues in Hamilton County until compliance is achieved. Also, if the noncompliance continues into 2008, Hamilton County may have its 2008 PTRC distributions withheld until all datasets are compliant.

Communication is essential to resolving any outstanding data compliance issues. We encourage you to update the Department on Hamilton County's current status with regard to the requested datasets. Please

do not hesitate to ask any questions that you may have regarding data compliance, including requesting that a state information-technology expert assist you in submitting the data. Please contact the Department at [data@dlgf.in.gov](mailto:data@dlgf.in.gov) with questions relating to data compliance and/or to submit any information on Hamilton County's data compliance plan. Counties may check the status of each dataset by accessing the statewide data status spreadsheet, which is updated weekly, on the Department's website at <http://www.in.gov/dlgf/rates/>.

As a reminder, all data submissions should be directed to Diane Powers, Director, Fiscal and Management Analysis, Indiana Legislative Services Agency at [dpowers@iga.in.gov](mailto:dpowers@iga.in.gov). I appreciate your continued hard work in ensuring that Hamilton County becomes compliant with all data submission statutes and regulations. Working together, we can provide a fair and equitable system for all Indiana taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A.W. Musgrave  
Commissioner

CC: General Assembly  
President and Members of the County Board of Commissioners  
County Council Members  
IT Directors  
Tax and Assessment Vendors  
Local Taxing Units